

GRAMMAR

Read the following article. Complete the text by putting the verbs in brackets into their correct forms.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

For years Betty 1. _____ (**dream**) of decorating her house with lights to celebrate the festive season.

She 2. _____ (**begin search**) online for the perfect decorations as early as February of this year. Betty said she spent around £1,000 on the three decorations she fixed to the top of her house which 3. _____ (**blow**) down by high winds on Thursday and Friday night, just five days after she switched them on for the community.

Betty said, "It 4. _____ (**break**) my heart when they came down. I was really hurt. The amount of time and money I spent to get them up there and then the terrible wind came along and destroyed everything."

Fortunately, with the exception of a few scratches, Betty 5. _____ (**manage**) to salvage the lights and with the help of a friend 6. _____ (**fix**) them back to the house, this time using stronger fixtures.

Betty said, "I got myself really upset over it but I thought I 7. _____ (**not can let**) this beat me so when the wind 8. _____ (**calm**) down, I 9. _____ (**make**) a start on fixing them back up."

She added, "I 10. _____ (**just try**) to cheer the whole area up because everything has been such a mess in the country. I haven't just done this for me; I've done it for everybody."

Betty, who 11. _____ (**be**) a qualified electrical engineer, 12. _____ (**claim**) that nobody else in the UK 13. _____ (**have**) the same lights which she has used in her display because rather than buying them from a shop, she 14. _____ (**research**) which manufacturers create the lights which 15. _____ (**can be see**) on lampposts along the highstreets.

VOCABULARY

Read the text and decide which answer best fits each space. Circle your answer.

1. John is **bored / excited / pleased / interested /** in politics. He reads the news every day.
2. Andrew is a **slim / right / tough / firm /** person. He is not afraid of anything.
3. Their music is too **glad / commercial / reliable / visible /**.
4. Are you still at the hotel? No, we've just **hung up / put away / checked out / come on /**.
5. **/ Get off! / Come on! / Check out! / Hang up! /** What's taking you so long?
6. Are you still on the phone? No, I've just **done up / put up / set up / hung up /**.
7. Little Sandy looked so **fierce / goofy / relaxed / smart /** in her father's big shoes and jacket.
8. Emily is just too **rude / proud / joyful / greedy /** to apologize for being arrogant and ask for advice.
9. Mike **bought / quit / swam / sat /** school and started a business.
10. Ms Robinson was a **gentle / grievous / generous / genius /** woman who left money to orphanages and schools.

READING COMPREHENSION (1)

Read the text carefully. For questions 1-10, choose from sections A-J.

A cleaning expert has listed several things she would never own in her own home as they are too difficult and time-consuming to keep clean.

A As anyone who has these venetian blinds in their home will know, they can be a particular pain to clean as they collect dust quickly between the slats but are too flimsy and fragile to simply give a quick dust-down. “Shutter blinds look very similar but are a lot sturdier,” Victoria advised.

B Square sinks can be a popular choice as some think that they look more stylish – but Victoria warned that sinks with corners can be far more time-consuming to clean than round versions. “Bits of food get stuck in the corners and grime collects around the edges,” she explained.

C While a freestanding bath can look particularly luxurious, this cleaning expert has urged people to consider the practicalities of cleaning one before putting it in their bathroom. Depending on where the bath is placed and the size of your bathroom, cleaning behind it can prove difficult, Victoria pointed out. “If the bathroom isn’t big enough, then you have to get in the bath with the Hoover to clean behind it.”

D If you opt for polished metal light switch covers, Victoria warned, you will be forever polishing off the fingerprints on them. “You may as well carry around a buffer cloth,” she said. “The second you touch metal light switches, there’s fingerprints everywhere. They seem to be really common. Matte light switches are a great alternative,” the expert advised.

E Glossy flooring might look appealing when it’s shiny and new, but Victoria said that people should think twice about this “high maintenance” option as it requires more cleaning than other floor types. “Dirt and other debris show up more on high gloss flooring, as do any imperfections,” she explained.

F “Every piece of mirrored furniture I’ve seen has either been smashed, covered in scratches or both,” Victoria said, adding that they are sure to collect hand- and fingerprints easily. “They look gorgeous but they’re very fragile and need cleaning regularly.”

G Victoria advised that opting for a floating toilet makes cleaning quicker and easier, as having a toilet that is put on the floor can create some tricky spots. She explained, “Dust and grime collect where the screws are at the bottom, and also around the back of the toilet, which is a tight area to clean.”

H Many households might choose brushed steel for a classy look in the bathroom and kitchen, thinking that avoiding polished steel will help keep marks and scratches at bay – but this isn’t necessarily the case, according to Victoria. “They don’t look clean for very long and need a lot of buffing to get the smears to disappear,” she said.

I Having doors that slide to open and close may be practical when it comes to taking a shower, but it can take up a lot of time when it comes to budging dirt. Victoria warned, “The nooks and crannies collect hard-water stains, soap scum, and mould, which are hard to get into to clean.”

J Most people might not even think about cleaning the top of their kitchen cupboards – but Victoria said that if you have cupboards that don’t go all the way up to the ceiling, dust and grease from cooking is sure to build up on top of them over time. “Most people neglect this area because it’s out of sight, out of mind, and not easy to access,” she said.

READING COMPREHENSION (2)

A cleaning expert shares 10 'high-maintenance' items she would never have in her home. Mark your answers on which section (A-J) mentions which item (1-10).

1. Glazy and opulent A / B / C / D / E / F / G / H / I / J /
2. Fixed to the floor A / B / C / D / E / F / G / H / I / J /
3. Bathtub A / B / C / D / E / F / G / H / I / J /
4. Washstand A / B / C / D / E / F / G / H / I / J /
5. Stainless taps A / B / C / D / E / F / G / H / I / J /
6. Furniture that doesn't touch the ceiling A / B / C / D / E / F / G / H / I / J /
7. Push button A / B / C / D / E / F / G / H / I / J /
8. Sun blinds A / B / C / D / E / F / G / H / I / J /
9. Reflecting surface A / B / C / D / E / F / G / H / I / J /
10. Sliding doors A / B / C / D / E / F / G / H / I / J /

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

After listening to the text, write the correct words (plurals) to finish these sentences.

1. _____ and _____ orbit the Sun.
2. Some small pieces which can sometimes be found on Earth are called _____.
3. _____ have solid bodies.
4. But _____ contain solid water and natural gas.
5. Sometimes we can see _____ burning up in the Earth's atmosphere.

Literatura:

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